

February 13, 2001

Dear School Principal:

Every student in Mississippi should have the opportunity to receive a first rate education in a safe learning environment. We have joined forces with school leaders, crisis management experts and law enforcement officials to create a quick, easy and good way to prepare for, and to respond to, a school crisis. The result is “The Crisis Response Box.”

“The Box” has one simple goal: to immediately provide the essential information for effective management of a major critical incident to school administrators and emergency personnel.

“The Box” does not take the place of a crisis response plan or your school safety plan required by the State Board of Education, but it does work hand in hand with your plan. The Department of Education’s Division of School Safety will continue to conduct comprehensive school safety assessments, including pupil transportation school building facilities and security, of schools. “The Box” enhances your school safety plan by centrally locating the information needed if an emergency strikes. We are also encouraging you to provide your local law enforcement authority with a “Box” in the event of your school’s “Box” not being accessible during an emergency situation.

In a crisis situation, minutes and seconds are precious. Those minutes and seconds should be spent putting the crisis response plan into action, not spent gathering information. A crisis is not the time to collect information – it is the time to act. We hope you never need to use the contents in the Crisis Response Box, but we also hope you have “The Box” if you ever do face a crisis.

Ronnie Musgrove
Governor

Dr. Richard Thompson
Superintendent of Education

David Huggins
Commissioner of Public Safety